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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1330  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY 2182  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0920  
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY 1094  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY 2885  
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY 1219  
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 4848  
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY 1920  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0199  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 001340

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/24/2028  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PBIO](#) [SNAR](#) [ECON](#) [DR](#)  
SUBJECT: PLD LEADER MEDINA KEEPS DISTANCE FROM FERNANDEZ

REF: A. SANTO DOMINGO 01327  
[1](#)B. SANTO DOMINGO 01167  
[1](#)C. SANTO DOMINGO 01296

Classified By: P. Robert Fannin, Ambassador, Reasons 1.4(b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) BACKGROUND: Danilo Medina is the second-most powerful leader in the PLD party, after President Fernandez himself, and is seen as the s  
Medina served as Fernandez's Minister of the Presidency until late-2006. He then left the administration to challenge the President for the PI

[1](#)2. (C) POLCHIEF met with Danilo Medina on August 20 and inquired about the prospects for constitutional reform.

Medina said that Fernandez called a meeting of the PLD's Political Committee on August 11 and that the President pressed for his proposed const  
Medina was critical of the fact that Fernandez -- after calling the meeting on the 11th knowing the party would want to please him before cabin

[1](#)3. (C) Medina was critical of Fernandez's inauguration speech, sharing the view of other commentators that the address proposed more public wc  
considers the excessive defense of the peso, which has caused interests rates to rise, as well as of Finance Minister Bengoa, who he described

[1](#)4. (C) POLCHIEF praised the recent success of the Dominican justice system in achieving convictions in the Baninter bank fraud (Ref B) and inc  
the fight against corruption should start within political parties, where the problem is serious. He said that many politicians accept campaig  
traffickers. These types of contributions range, according to Medina, from officials who do not know (or fail to investigate whether) they are  
who proactively approach narcotics in their districts to essentially shake them down. Regarding the recent drug-related multiple murder case in E  
Sen. Wilton Guerrero (PLD-Peravia), who has made allegations of official complicity in the drug trade in that area (Ref C).

[1](#)5. (C) In a review of opposition parties, Medina contradicted prevailing wisdom by saying that the PRD party is doing well. He argued that the  
counted, the PRD beat the PLD in a majority of the country's provinces. Regarding the PRSC, which received less than five percent of the vote,

[1](#)6. (C) COMMENT: Medina has always kept his criticism of Fernandez out of the press; however, this meeting showed that behind closed doors he

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FANNIN